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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,474	09/15/2003	Kenneth W. Shirriff	33227/448001; P9143-US-NP	3748
33615	7590	04/06/2010	EXAMINER	
GILLIS, BRIAN J				
OSHA LIANG LLP/Oracle TWO HOUSTON CENTER 909 FANNIN, SUITE 3500 HOUSTON, TX 77010			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2441	
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			04/06/2010	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte KENNETH W. SHIRRIFF,
ALEXANDER G. VUL and MICHAEL B. GOFF

Appeal 2010-002009
Application 10/663,474
Technology Center 2400

Mailed: April 5, 2010

Before DALE M. SHAW, *Division 2 Support Administrator*

ORDER REMANDING APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on December 14, 2009. A Docketing Notice was mailed and Appeal No. 2010-002009 was assigned on December 23, 2009. A review of the application has revealed that the application was not ready for an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being remanded to the Examiner. The matter requiring attention is identified below.

Claims 53-60 of the instant application contain functional language that may be indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. *See Ex Parte Rodriguez*, 2009 WL 3756279 (BPAI 2009) and *Aristocrat Techs. Austl. Pty. Ltd. v. It'l. Game Tech.*, 521 F.3d 1328 (Fed Cir. 2008). On September 2, 2008 the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, John J. Love, issued a memorandum entitled “Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, when examining means (or step) plus function claim limitations under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph”, located at: http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/section_112_6th_09_02_2008.pdf . Thus, there is a question as to whether claims 53-60 and the claims which depend upon these claims, meet the requirements of being definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is remanded to the Examiner to determine if claims 53-60 and the claims which depend upon these claims, meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

If there are any questions pertaining to this order, please contact the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences at 571-272-9797.

tkl

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